

Upper Peninsula State Fair Transition Timeline

Feb. 3rd 2009, Governor Granholm presented her State of the State Address where she outlined that there would be no State Funding for the State Fairs in Detroit and the Upper Peninsula in 2010. Ann met with the Governor following the presentation and assured her that our community would assist in the transition.

Feb. 5th 2009, Director Don Koivisto from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, UP State Fair Board and staff met with approximately 200 people at Bay College to discuss the U.P. State Fair and answer any questions. A list of questions and answers was sent to each person who provided email addresses. The major concern was not necessarily the State funding for the fair but that the fair continue along with all other related activities. There was a great deal of reassurance that evening and people left encouraged that we will continue albeit under new leadership.

Feb. 9th 2009 – Met with representatives from the Steam and Gas Engine Show to share ideas and answer questions.

Feb 10th 2009, Met with a group of loan officers and EDA Directors in Marquette and explained the situation and that Delta County would step up to help with the transfer.

Feb. 11th 2009, The Governor issued an Executive Order transferring the U.P. State Fair from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Management and Budget for transfer to a local governing body. We held a conference call with the Governors office as to how to proceed.

Feb. 11th 2009, We explored several possibilities for transfer: to the U.P. State Fair Foundation but the correct number of board members had not been appointed and it could take up to 6 months for approval.

Feb.12th 2009 – Meeting with two Delta County Commissioners and Jon Mead from UPCAP to discuss the conveyance of the property from DMB to Delta County and then form an Authority within UPCAP to allow each of the 15 U.P. Counties to appoint or elect an individual to serve on the Authority. The Authority would then hire a management group to operate the facility.

Feb. 12th 2009, Drafted a letter describing the possibility for transition and sent it by email to 115 people and 15 by mail to inform the Feb. 5th attendees that the process was moving forward.

Feb. 12th and 13th 2009, Presentations and updates to the Chamber Board and the Economic Development Board.

Feb 13th 2009, Responded to questions from a number of people who wanted to help. Attorney Janis Burgess has agreed to review all legal papers in the transition process.

Feb 13th 2009, Tom Lippens has offered the assistance of the Trades and Labor unions to help with maintenance through the transition.

Feb. 13th 2009 Meeting with Representative Judy Nemat to give her an update on the process. She has agreed to work with Senator Prusi's office to assist with the transfer.

Feb. 14th 2009 UPCAP has agreed to apply for the Trademark "U.P. State Fair and Upper Peninsula State Fair.

Feb 14th 2009, sent emails to Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina and Maryland State Fairs as to how they operate under a 501(c)(3). Responses are starting to come in.

Feb. 16th 2009, Received a letter from the Delta County Conservation District offering to help with the transition.

Feb. 16th 2009, Spoke with Representative Lahti by phone to update him on procedure.

Feb 17th 2009, The Delta County Board of Commissioners voted to pay for a title search and survey of the property.

Feb. 18th 2009, The Agriculture Commission passed a resolution of support for the conveyance of the property to a local governing body and it was sent to the legislature.

Feb. 18th 2009, Met with Senator Prusi's office to go over the details of the transfer and his office as ordered a bill to be drafted by the legislative service bureau.

Feb. 19th 2009, Interview with MIRS in Lansing on progress of Fair Transition.

Feb. 19th 2009, Sample resolution for support from the UP Association of Counties was sent to UPCAP.

Feb. 20th 2009, Attended the UPCAP Board meeting to update the counties. Attended the Transition meeting at the fairgrounds. Approximately 50 people attended – Chamber website has been updated with meeting information.

Feb. 23rd 2009, The Delta County Joint Governmental Units approved a Resolution of Support for the conveyance of the Fair facility to the community.

Feb.27th 2009, Requested an inventory of personal property for Fair Facility. Inventory does not exist.

March 2nd 2009, Received a letter of support from the Michigan Cattleman's Association.

March 2nd 2009, Request from the Dept of Agriculture job descriptions for employees, list of event sponsors and contracts for storage.

March 3rd 2009, Budget details are being evaluated and the Chamber website added a page for Fair Updates for the public.

March 4th 2009, The Escanaba City Council approved a Resolution of Support for the conveyance of the property.

March 5th 2009, Michigan Works introduced current information on the Summer Youth Program they will operate the "Earn While You Learn" work based program. Chamber and UPSF will be identified as a work sites.

March 6th 2009, Jon Mead prepared a DRAFT "Inter Local Agreement" for review. Once approved, it will be sent to all UP Counties.

March 6th 2009, Met with Stacy Welling, DNR Deputy Director, to update her on Fair Facility progress and to encourage the continuance of the memorandum of understanding with the Pocket Park.

March 6, 2009 – Discussion with Scott Stealgrave regarding transfer of telephone number and computer network.

March 9th 2009, Requested Delta County to submit Capitol Improvements for the Fair Facility to MEDC for stimulus dollars.

March 9, 2009, Continued communications with Dept of Ag for inventory. Advised that DMB would complete in May after the snow has melted.

March 12, 2009, Resolutions and Support Letters sent to Senator Prusi and Governor's offices.

March 12, 2009 – Attended CUPPAD regional meeting to update members on progress – all were in support of conveyance and new entity to govern operations.

March 13, 2009, Reviewed and modified definition of Authority in Inter Local Agreement to include Hannahville Indian Community.

March 16, 2009, UP Economic Development Alliance will prepare letter of support for the conveyance of the fair property from the state to Delta County.

March 16, 2009, Delta Abstract and Title completed 1,000 pages of title search and delivered to Nancy Kolich, County Clerk. The title search was reviewed by Ann and Nancy – Nancy also compiled the minutes of all county board meetings in 1926, 1927 and a portion of 1926 prior to the first UP State Fair.

March 17, 2009 – Marquette County Board of Commissioners approved a Resolution of Support for the conveyance of the fairgrounds property from the State to Delta County. Chuck Bergdahl was appointed to represent the county on the authority.

March 17, 2009 – Title search documents delivered to county administrator Joe Erickson and attorneys Mike Quinn and John Lewandowski for review.

March 18, 2009 – Updates given to Senator Prusi and Governor's offices. Senator Prusi also received draft of the Inter Local Agreement for review.

March 18, 2009 – Discussion with E.J. Brown, Director of Fairs and Festivals for Michigan about grant program for premium awards. This is important and we will watch closely.

March 19, 2009 – U.P. State Fair Board meeting to discuss 2009 fair and transition process.

March 24, 2009 – Legislative Service Bureau requested a description of the property – called attorney for all six parcel descriptions to be sent for submission.

March 24, 2009 – Email from Representative Nerat's office offering assistance as needed.

March 26th 2009 – Presentation and update on UP State Fair, to the Delta County Township Association.

March 30, 2009 – Prepared funding request for 2% revenue distribution to Hannahville Indian Community for start up funding.

March 30, 2009 – Emailed budget and fair board member contact information to Jon Mead.

March 30, 2009 – Discussed winter storage with Herb Pomeroy. Most customers will begin removing items from winter storage beginning April 6 and he

will help communicate future plans to them. We will review and modify current contracts so rental fees will be paid to the new entity.

March 31st, 2009 Joe Erickson, County Administrator, was contacted by the Attorney as to the possibility of a Baseline Assessment. They are also reviewing all easements on the property.

March 31st, 2009 Herb Pomaroy was contacted about underground storage tanks and old septic systems. They have all been removed and the property should be clean.

March 31, 2009 – Received notice from Hannahville Indian Community that the 2% distribution grant application was received and will be considered for funding.

April 1st, 2009 The first review of the Attorneys Opinion on the Title Search was reviewed today. Mike Quinn is doing the search and we will meet on April 2nd with John Lewandowski.

April 1st, 2009 Meeting with the Steam and Gas Engine Association to update and answer questions.

April 2nd, 2009 Met with the Growing U.P. Agriculture Association to update and answer questions.

April 2, 2009 – Received telephone call from investors who may be interested in constructing a track suitable for car racing.

April 2nd, 2009 Conference call with Attorney Mike Quinn, call included John Lewandowski, Joe Erickson and Ann Jousma Miller. Discussion on Title Opinion and any relevant restrictions. Quinn will draft the Title wording and two other descriptions, Lewandowski will prepare the Bill of Sale for personal property, Erickson will write proposals for the survey and order aerial photos from SCD and ask Bittner to do a Phase 1 Assessment for Environmental..

April 3rd, 2009 The Request for Proposals for Surveying Services was sent from the County.

April 6th, 2009 Joe Erickson and Ann Jousma Miller met with Peterson Surveying and Davis/Wanic to answer any questions they may have on the survey and to instruct them as to the Counties expectations namely easements. The surveyors will have until April 9th 2009 to submit their bid. The survey will then be let on Friday April 10th, 2009.

April 6th, 2009 Senator Prusi submitted information to the bill drafter.

April 6th, 2009 Joe Erickson ordered a Baseline Assessment from Bittner Engineering. Delta Conservation District will furnish aerial photos of the facility.

April 7th, 2009 The Draft language for the Deed and the personal property Bill of Sale, have been completed. Survey will explore any discrepancies in the property descriptions.

April 7, 2009 – Presentation to Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel with UPSF update.

April 9, 2009 – Interview with Daily Press regarding Chamber website link to community updates for UPSFG.

April 13th, 2009 Davis Wanic Surveyors had the winning bid for survey and they expect to have it completed by Friday April 17th 2009.

April 15, 2009 – Requested financial report detail to determine what goods and services may be obtained locally rather than through State contractors.

April 15, 2009 – Reviewed information from Scott Staelgraeve regarding State regulations governing the fair operations. The new governing board will need to adopt/develop rules & regulations that mirror or parallel existing regulations. Regulation 852 is a State of Michigan Regulation that will no longer exist after 9/30. This regulation governs concessionaires, exhibitors and non-fair permits/licenses; food concessions; agricultural, livestock, and community arts exhibits; games of skill. The regulation also identifies the hearing process to deal with complaints.

April 15 – UPCAP received certificate of registration for service mark consisting of U.P. State Fair and Upper Peninsula State Fair. UPCAP will transfer service mark to authority once authority is established.

April 16 – Meeting with Jon Mead, UPCAP, to discuss progress. Ann reported that legislation to transfer property to the county is proceeding. Legislation should be ready for Senator Prusi to introduce when they are back in session next week. Legislation likely to identify how land may be used.

April 16 – Status of Interlocal Agreement – All documents were sent by UPCAP to counties with encouragement to move the process forward locally. Deadline for return of agreement is May 15th. Ann and Vickie will attend the UP county meeting in Baraga to provide update to participants.

April 17 – Meeting with UPSFG Facilities Manager Herb Pomeroy to discuss fair and grounds operations. He will help identify projects for the summer youth employment program through Michigan Works.

May 1 – Teleconference with Jon Mead and Senator Prusi's office – four U.P. Counties have adopted and passed resolutions of support for the U.P. State Fair Authority - two counties need to adopt for the authority to be created. We're hopeful that most other counties will be on board prior to May 15th. The property conveyance (state to county) legislation was discussed including the legal description of the property.

May 5 – Reserved Good Sam's Samboree for June 2010 event.

May 5 – Delta County Board of Commissioners approved interlocal agreement to establish an Upper Peninsula State Fair Authority.

May 12 – Meeting with Joe Erickson re: Hannahville 2% grant. UPCAP will receive and hold funds until the authority is established, insurance benefits for fairground employees, discussed liability options, agreed to meet after May 15 for strategic planning purposes. Once property is conveyed, county and authority will negotiate lease. Suggested contacting Gary Ballweg to ask U.P. Sheriffs to share law enforcement responsibilities during the fair. Authority may be able to request grant funded environmental study of fairgrounds.

May 12 - Received word that the Hannahville Indian Community approved Delta County's \$30,000 grant request for startup funds. This is a big step in helping us toward our goal to continue UP State Fair operations when State funding ends.

May 15 – Ann and Vickie attended a meeting of Upper Peninsula counties sponsored by UPCAP in Baraga. They gave an update on the progress being made to convey the property and asked for their support in the establishment of a UP State Fair Authority. Seven counties have passed resolutions of support.

May 19 – Informed by Senator Mike Prusi's office that the U.P. State Fair conveyance bill was drafted and ready for introduction.

May 19 - Conference call scheduled with the Department of Agriculture, asked for consideration in allowing someone from the transition team to job shadow a few days each week from now until the end of the fiscal year. Will meet with Barb Hensinger on June 3 to discuss the possibilities.

May 21 – UP State Fair Board meeting – discussed premium reduction and furlough days. Future premium reductions are a concern.

May 25 – Editorial in Daily Press encouraging quick passage of conveyance legislation.